



Intercontinental Exchange Inc. (ICE)

Updated August 7th, 2026 by Prakash Kolli

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$150	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	12.0%	Market Cap:	\$84.07B
Fair Value Price:	\$171	5 Year Growth Estimate:	8.0%	Ex-Dividend Date:	09/16/26
% Fair Value:	88%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	2.7%	Dividend Payment Date:	09/30/26
Dividend Yield:	1.4%	5 Year Price Target	\$251	Years Of Dividend Growth:	14
Dividend Risk Score:	A	Sector:	Financials	Rating:	Buy

Overview & Current Events

Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. is an operator of financial exchanges and mortgage technology services. The company owns the New York Stock Exchange, operates a derivatives exchange, operates an electronic marketplace for futures and over the counter energy contracts, and owns the leading soft commodity exchange. ICE also offers pricing and market data, risk management, and trading support. The company acquired Ellie Mae in 2020 and Black Knight in 2023, expanding into mortgage technology services. The firm now has three reporting segments: Exchanges (55%), Fixed Income and Data Services (28%), and Mortgage Technology (16%). Total revenue in 2025 was \$9.9B.

ICE reported Q2 2026 results on July 30th, 2026. For the quarter, net revenue grew 5% in constant currency (CC) to a record of \$2,666M from \$2,543M and adjusted diluted earnings per share rose 5% to \$1.90 from \$1.81 on a year-over-year basis. On a GAAP basis, diluted earnings per share increased 14% to \$1.69 from \$1.48 in comparable periods. ICE benefitted from revenue growth in all three segments during the quarter, but had lower operating margins.

The Exchanges segment revenue increased 3% (CC) to \$1,464M in the quarter from \$1,415M in the prior year driven by increases Data and Connectivity (+12%), Cash and Equity Options (+15%), Listings (+5%), %, Ags and Metals (+35%), Financials (+21%), and OTC & Other (+15%), offset by Energy (-13%). Fixed Income and Data Services segment revenue increased 8% (CC) to \$645M from \$597M in comparable periods driven by increases in Data & Network Technology (+11%), Fixed Income Data and Analytics (+9%), and CDS Clearing (+2%), offset by Fixed Income Execution (-4%).

Mortgage Technology segment revenue was up 5% to \$557M versus \$531M on gains in Origination Tech (+5%), Closing Solutions (+14%), Servicing Software (+2%), and Data & Analytics (+6%).

The firm announced the acquisition of MarketAxess for \$6.0B in cash.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
EPS	\$2.78	\$2.95	\$3.59	\$3.88	\$4.51	\$5.61	\$5.30	\$5.62	\$6.07	\$6.95	\$8.14	\$11.96
DPS	\$0.68	\$0.80	\$0.96	\$1.10	\$1.20	\$1.32	\$1.52	\$1.68	\$1.80	\$1.92	\$2.08	\$3.06
Shares¹	599	594	579	565	555	565	561	565	578	575	572	558

ICE has grown the bottom line at a good clip by organic growth and many acquisitions. ICE is acquisitive and has bought several firms including NYSE Euronext in 2013, Interactive Data in 2015, Ellie Mae in 2020, and Black Knight in 2023, adding to the top line. But the additional shares issued for the purchases have kept a lid on earnings per share growth. Over time, organic growth will come from increased trading, new market and pricing data products, and mortgage origination. The company increased adjusted earnings per share at a roughly 16% rate from 2006 to 2022. We are now forecasting on average 8% annual earnings per share growth through 2031, accounting for slowing growth rates.

ICE initiated a dividend in 2013 and grew it at a double-digit rate since then, but the current yield is low. We are forecasting on average 8% annual growth rate in the dividend, matching earnings growth. The company has a \$4.0B share repurchase authorization, which was increased in 2026.

¹ Share count in millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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Valuation Analysis

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Now	2031
Avg. P/E	18.8	21.5	20.7	22.0	24.8	23.3	20.5	22.9	24.5	23.3	18.4	21.0
Avg. Yld.	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%	1.2%

ICE's stock price is down slightly since our last report, despite beating estimates because of an increased operating expense outlook. We maintained our 2026 earnings estimates to match consensus. Our fair value multiple is 21X, which is below the 10-year average. Our fair value estimate is \$171. Our 5-year price target is \$251.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

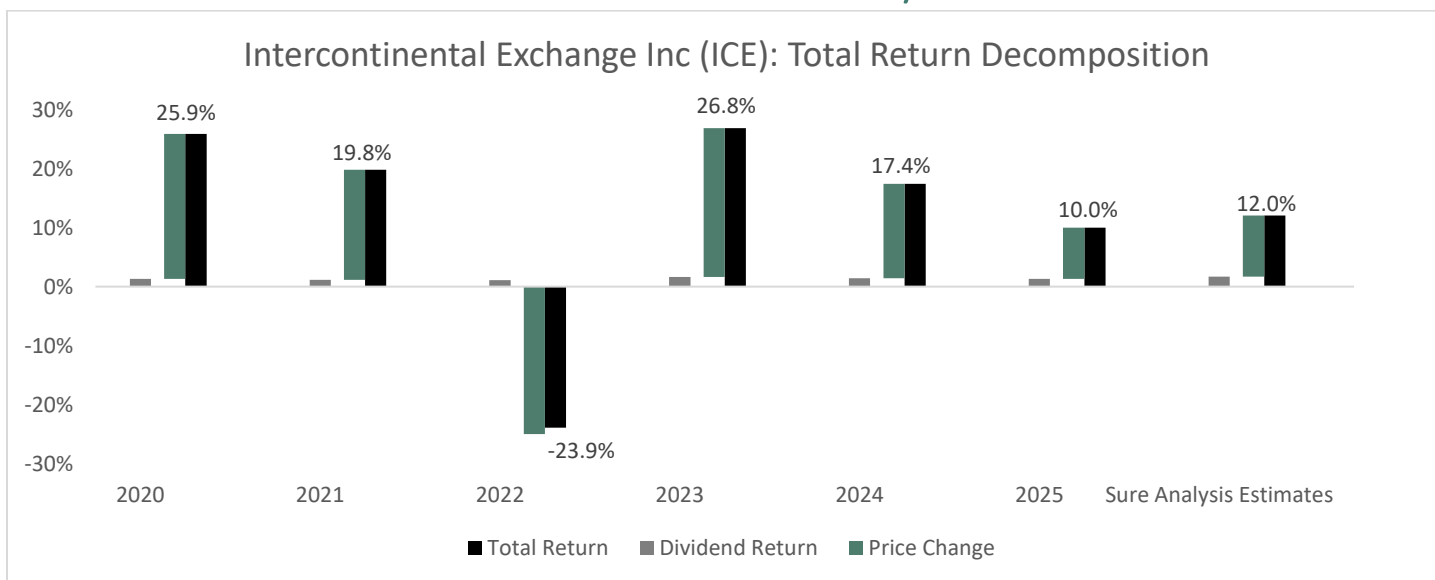
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031
Payout	24%	27%	27%	28%	27%	24%	29%	30%	30%	28%	26%	26%

ICE's competitive advantage is its scale in trading, the NYSE brand, proprietary exchange products, data in commodity futures and fixed-income data, and mortgage technology. The company can provide unique datasets from its exchanges that competitors do not have access to. ICE does face risks in changing regulatory environments, lower home sales, and a decline in trading volumes. A downturn in trading volume during a recession will likely reduce ICE's top and bottom lines. During the Great Recession, EPS exhibited a significant sequential quarterly decline from \$0.26 in Q1 2008 to a bottom of \$0.13 in Q4 2008 before recovering through 2009. By Q1 2010, quarterly EPS had returned to \$0.27. The stock price declined severely during this time. Next, there is the omnipresent threat of cyber-attacks or disruptions to trading. ICE took on significant debt and leverage to build its mortgage business at a time when interest rates are rising, creating some risk. Short-term debt was \$1,218M and long-term debt was \$18,628M at end of Q2 2026. This was offset by \$1,067M in cash and marketable securities. The leverage ratio is now 2.86X and interest coverage is about 6.88X.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

At present we are forecasting a 12.0% total annualized return through 2031 from a dividend yield of 1.4%, 8% EPS growth, and 2.7% P/E multiple expansion. ICE announced the purchase of MarketAxess to beef up its bond trading platform. While this makes strategic sense, it will increase debt and leverage. Moreover, MarketAxess has been losing market share in corporate bond trading to its competitors. We have kept our rating of this company as a 'buy'.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	5971	5843	6276	6547	8244	9168	9636	9903	11761	12228
Gross Profit	3559	3692	3985	4160	4848	5018	5202	5659	6522	8371
Gross Margin	59.6%	63.2%	63.5%	63.5%	58.8%	54.7%	54.0%	57.1%	55.5%	68.5%
SG&A Exp.	697	742	782	823	959	458	440	481	572	---
D&A Exp.	610	535	586	662	751	1009	1031	1215	1537	1560
Operating Profit	2252	2415	2617	2675	3138	3551	3731	3963	4413	5054
Operating Margin	37.7%	41.3%	41.7%	40.9%	38.1%	38.7%	38.7%	40.0%	37.5%	41.3%
Net Profit	1430	2526	1988	1933	2089	4058	1446	2368	2754	3370
Net Margin	23.9%	43.2%	31.7%	29.5%	25.3%	44.3%	15.0%	23.9%	23.4%	27.6%
Free Cash Flow	1784	1728	2253	2354	2471	2671	3072	3053	3857	3871
Income Tax	586	-28	500	521	658	1629	310	456	826	976

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Assets	82003	78264	92791	94493	126200	193500	194338	136084	139428	136887
Cash & Equivalents	407	535	724	841	583	607	1799	899	844	2214
Accounts Receivable	777	903	953	988	1230	1280	1169	1366	1490	---
Goodwill & Int. Ass.	22711	22485	23547	23600	35699	34860	34201	47870	46901	45999
Total Liabilities	66249	61279	75560	77207	106666	170750	171577	110298	111708	107896
Accounts Payable	519	590	626	643	846	703	866	1003	1051	---
Long-Term Debt	6364	6100	7441	7819	16537	13290	18122	22613	20368	19244
Shareholder's Equity	15717	16957	17201	17255	19498	22710	22706	25717	27647	28914
LTD/E Ratio	0.40	0.36	0.43	0.45	0.85	0.61	0.80	0.88	0.74	0.70

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Return on Assets	1.8%	3.2%	2.3%	2.1%	1.9%	2.5%	0.7%	1.4%	2.0%	2.4%
Return on Equity	9.4%	15.5%	11.6%	11.2%	11.4%	19.2%	6.4%	9.8%	10.3%	11.9%
ROIC	6.5%	11.2%	8.3%	7.8%	6.8%	11.1%	3.7%	5.3%	5.7%	6.9%
Shares Out.	595	596	569	604	598	565	561	565	576	575
Revenue/Share	9.97	9.84	10.84	11.59	14.85	16.23	17.18	17.53	20.42	21.27
FCF/Share	2.98	2.91	3.89	4.17	4.45	4.73	5.48	5.40	6.70	6.73

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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